

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of calibrating a washing machine to wash a medical device to represent a peak surface temperature experienced by a medical device during a washing cycle in a medical washing machine, the method comprising:

inserting the medical device into the ~~medical~~ washing machine for a washing cycle;

positioning a disposable thermometer strip proximate the medical device; ~~and measuring indicating by the thermometer strip~~ a peak temperature of the medical device with the thermometer strip during the washing cycle ~~in the medical washing machine~~;

adjusting operation of the washing machine as a function of the measured peak temperature so as to calibrate the washing machine to perform the same washing cycle at a different temperature.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thermometer is positioned proximate a surface of the medical device prior to inserting the medical device into the medical washing machine, wherein the thermometer and the medical device are inserted into the medical washing machine at the same time.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein measuring ~~indicating~~ the peak temperature comprises reading the peak thermometer temperature from an irreversible thermometer strip after completion of the first washing cycle.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein measuring ~~indicating~~ the peak temperature comprises viewing the thermometer during the first washing cycle and recording the peak thermometer temperature.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein positioning the thermometer comprises affixing the thermometer to a tray used to support the medical device during the washing cycle.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the surface of the medical device comprises a first material and the method further comprises matching a tray material to the first material.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the thermometer includes an adhesive material layer and an adhesive layer covering, and wherein positioning the thermometer comprises removing the adhesive layer covering and affixing the adhesive material layer to the tray.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the washing cycle comprises in sequential order a first washing cycle, a second washing cycle, a third washing cycle, a fourth washing cycle, a fifth washing cycle, and a sixth washing cycle, wherein each washing cycle includes a desired medical washing temperature and wherein the method further comprising measuring ~~indicating~~ the peak surface temperature for each washing cycle, wherein measuring ~~indicating~~ the peak surface temperature for each washing cycle comprises removing the thermometer positioned for the first washing cycle and affixing a new thermometer prior to each subsequent washing cycle, wherein each thermometer is selected from a group of thermometers having different predefined thermometer temperature ranges such that the predefined temperature range of the selected thermometer corresponds with the desired medical washing temperature of the washing cycle.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the first washing cycle is a cold water rinse cycle and the method further comprises selecting a thermometer having a thermometer temperature range comprises the range of 100° F to 110° F so that the peak surface temperature can be measured ~~indicated~~ for use in preventing hemoglobin from baking on the medical device.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the second washing cycle is an enzyme cycle and the method further comprises selecting a thermometer having a thermometer temperature range comprises the range of 110° F to 130° F so that the peak surface temperature can be measured ~~indicated~~ for use in preventing prevent enzymes from become ineffective at breaking down proteins on the medical device.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the third washing cycle is a detergent cycle and the method further comprises selecting a thermometer having a thermometer temperature range comprises the range of 140° F to 150° F so that the peak surface temperature can be measured ~~indicated~~ for use in preventing the detergent cycle from becoming ineffective.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the fourth washing cycle is a disinfection cycle and the method further comprises selecting a thermometer having a thermometer temperature range comprises the range of 170° F to 180° F so that the peak surface temperature can be measured ~~indicated~~ for use in preventing the detergent cycle from becoming ineffective.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the fifth washing cycle is an ultrasonic cycle and the method further comprises selecting a thermometer having a thermometer temperature range comprises the range of 100° F to 110° F if enzymes are used and 120° F to 130° F if alkaline detergent is used so that the peak surface temperature can be measured ~~indicated~~ for use in preventing the ultrasonic cycle from becoming ineffective.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the sixth washing cycle is a manual soaking cycle and the method further comprises selecting a thermometer having a thermometer temperature range comprises the range of 90° F to 110° F so that the peak surface temperature can be measured ~~indicated~~ for use in preventing detergents or enzymes from becoming ineffective.

15. (Currently Amended) A system to wash medical equipment, the system comprising;

a medical washing machine to provide fluid to wash the medical equipment;

a tray to support the medical equipment during a washing cycle in the medical washing machine; and

a thermometer affixed to the tray proximate a surface of the medical equipment ~~to indicate a thermometer temperature~~, wherein the thermometer is disconnected from the medical washing machine and includes a display for indicated a measured a peak thermometer temperature ~~represents the peak surface temperature experienced by the medical device during the first washing cycle due to positioning the thermometer proximate the surface of the medical device.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 wherein the thermometer is an irreversible thermometer ~~having a temperature display~~, wherein the temperature display indicates a range of independently activated temperature values such that each value within the range becomes active at a particular temperature to display the measured ~~the peak thermometer temperature.~~

17. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the thermometer includes a first side and a second side, and wherein the first side includes the display and the second side includes an adhesive material layer and an adhesive layer covering so that the adhesive layer covering can be removed to affix the thermometer to the tray.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the tray comprises a material matching a surface material of the medical equipment.

19. (Currently Amended) A method ~~to represent a peak surface temperature experienced by a medical device during a washing cycle in~~ of calibrating a medical washing machine, the method comprising:

inserting the medical device into the medical washing machine for a washing cycle, wherein inserting the medical device comprises placing the medical device on a tray and inserting the medical device and the tray into the washing machine at the same time;

attaching positioning an irreversible thermometer strip to the tray proximate the medical device; and

measuring indicating by the irreversible thermometer strip a peak temperature of the medical device with the irreversible thermometer strip during the washing cycle ~~in the washing machine.~~

removing the thermometer strip from the tray;

calibrating the washing machine to execute the same washing cycle at a different temperature if the measured peak temperature is different than a desired peak temperature for the washing cycle; and

attaching another irreversible thermometer strip to the tray to measure a second peak temperature of the washing cycle after calibrating the washing machine to verify whether the calibration of the washing machine successfully caused the washing machine to execute the same washing cycle at the desired peak temperature.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising matching a material of the tray to a material of the medical device such that the material of the tray mimics the material of the medical device.